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COAL TRADE AT CHICAGO

With Compliments of

THE COAL TRADE REVIEW.

A COMPENDIUM OF

VALUABLE INFORMATION

RELATIVE TO THE

COAL TRADE AT CHICAGO

AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

Giving Reliable Facts and Figures worthy of Preservation for
Future Reference.

COLLECTED AND COMPILED BY

H. ALEX. BISCHOFF,

Manager Bureau of Coal Statistics.

CHICAGO:

DONOHUE, HENNEBERRY & CO., PRINTERS.

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INDEX.

	SUBJECTS.	ADVERTISE- MENTS. Page.
Anthracite Coal—Total Receipts for Six Years.....	4	
Yearly Percentages of all Coal Receipts.....	5	
Review of the Market.....	6-12	
Monthly Comparisons from 1882-1884.....	13-14	
Stocks, Local Consumption, and Shipments....	15	
Bureau of Coal Statistics.....		64
Brazil Block Coal Company.....		54
Bracebush, A. C. & Co.....		Cover.
Coke—Review of the Market.....	22	
Monthly Comparisons from 1882-1884.....	23	
Clinton Coal District.....	39	
Coxe Brothers & Co.....		51
Chicago and Minonk Coal and Coke Company.....		Cover.
Delaware, and Hudson Canal Company.....		53
Dyer & Clark.....		61
Eastern Bit. Coal—Total Receipts for Six Years....	4	
Yearly Percentages of all Coal Receipts.....	5	
Review of the Market.....	16-18	
Monthly Comparisons from 1882-1884.....	19-20	
Monthly Receipts for 1884—Classified.....	21	
Ellsworth Coal Company.....		42
Fountain County Coal District.....	37	
Grape Creek Coal District.....	34	
Grape Creek Coal and Coke Company.....		55
Hathaway, J. L.....		64
Illinois Central.....	40	
Indiana Block Coal District....	35-36	
Illinois Valley and La Salle Co. Carbon Coal Cos...		57
Law, Robert.....		45
Lehigh Valley Coal Company.....		48
Langdon, Harvey & Richardson.....		47
Minonk Coal District.....	32	
Mt. Olive, Staunton and Danville Coal District....	38	
Morris Coal District.....	41	
Miscellaneous Illinois and Indiana Coals.....	40	
Meeker, Hedstrom & Co.....		44
Moody, L. L., & Co.....		56
Mather & Baker.....		46
Pratt, Parker & Co.....		50
Pennsylvania Coal Company.....		49
Streator Coal District.....	33	
Scott, W. L., & Co.....		43
Spalding, Mitchell & Co.....		52
Union Coal Company.....		59
Western Bit. Coal—Total Receipts for Six Years....	4	
Yearly Percentages of all Coal Receipts.....	5	
Review of the Market.....	24-26	
Monthly Receipts from 1882-1884.....	27-28	
Wilmington Coal District.....	29-30	
Wilmington Coal Association.....		Cover.
Wilmington and Springfield Coal Company.....		58
Wyman, W. C., & Co.....		62
Woodruff & Trunkey Brothers.....		63
Watson & Co., & Drew & Wasson Mining Company		60

INTRODUCTION.

In presenting herewith the fifth annual review of the Coal Trade at the Chicago market and its tributaries, it is but proper to call attention to the fact that, while the former system of imparting information on matters pertaining to the coal traffic in the West has been adhered to, greatly augmented facilities have made it possible to collect and embody in the fifth annual COAL TRADE REVIEW a vast amount of material, at once interesting, and of undoubted value to operators, shippers and dealers.

The magnitude attained by the coal industry at this market, and which, by its rapid and unceasing development of new resources, is destined to assume gigantic proportions, is fully appreciated by the undersigned, who has spared no efforts to make this work the truthful exponent of everything connected with, or bearing upon, the Western trade, giving, impartially, facts and figures to illustrate the condition of the market and the actual amount of business transacted.

Possessing unrivaled facilities for the collection of information on matters specially interesting to operators and shippers of, and dealers in, the product, the undersigned unhesitatingly presents this work, with the assurance that its contents consist of a compilation of accurate and reliable data.

The thanks of the Bureau of Coal Statistics are hereby tendered to our contributors, and all others who have kindly placed at our disposal every facility for obtaining the material so essential to the accurate and positively reliable statistical compilations contained in this review, and embraced in our tri-monthly statements regularly issued to the trade.

H. A. BISCHOFF,

Manager Bureau of Coal Statistics.

TOTAL RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS OF COAL AND COKE FROM JANUARY 1, 1879, TO DECEMBER 31, 1883.

KINDS OF COAL.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	Total for Six Years.
Anthracite Coal.....	831,520	797,249	1,102,748	1,081,421	1,245,411	1,453,082	6,511,431
Eastern Bituminous Coal and Coke.....	578,787	711,317	999,833	1,145,639	1,309,921	1,409,510	6,155,007
Western Bituminous Coal.....	974,667	1,197,522	1,402,793	1,710,604	1,991,440	1,937,068	9,214,094
Total all Coal and Coke.....	2,384,974	2,706,088	3,505,374	3,937,664	4,546,772	4,799,660	21,880,532
Total Shipments.....	527,844	621,996	684,367	843,954	1,091,482	1,232,327	5,021,910

The average yearly growth of the Anthracite Coal trade is thus shown to be 12.79 per cent., while that of Eastern Bituminous Coal and Coke is 20 per cent., and Western Bituminous Coal 15.13 per cent.

TABLES SHOWING THE TOTAL YEARLY RECEIPTS OF COAL AND COKE AND THE RELATIVE PERCENTAGES
EACH KIND OR DIVISION BEARS OF THE AGGREGATE RECEIPTS FOR EACH YEAR.

KINDS OF COAL.	1879.		1880.		1881.		1882.	
	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts.	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts
Anthracite Coal.....	831,520	34.86	797,249	29.46	1,102,748	31.46	1,081,421	27.46
Eastern Bituminous Coal and Coke.	578,787	24.27	711,317	26.29	999,833	28.52	1,145,639	29.10
Western Bituminous Coal.....	974,667	40.87	1,197,522	44.25	1,402,793	40.02	1,710,604	43.44
Total.....	2,384,974	100.00	2,706,088	100.00	3,505,374	100.00	3,937,664	100.00

KINDS OF COAL.	1883.		1884.		TOTAL FOR SIX YEARS.	
	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts	Tons.	Per Cent of Total Receipts
Anthracite Coal.....	1,245,411	27.39	1,453,082	30.27	6,511,431	29.76
Eastern Bituminous Coal and Coke.....	1,309,921	28.81	1,409,510	29.37	6,155,007	28.13
Western Bituminous Coal.....	1,991,440	43.80	1,937,068	40.36	9,214,094	42.11
Total.....	4,546,772	100.00	4,799,660	100.00	21,880,532	100.00

ANTHRACITE COAL.

By a perusal of the tables contained in this work, a clear and comprehensive idea of the anthracite coal trade at this market and its tributaries, during the six years ending December 31, 1884, will be obtained.

It is gratifying to note the steady growth of this great industry, especially during the past two years; a growth that finds a parallel only in the rapid development of the western and north-western section of this continent, and which is destined to convert this market, in the near future, into an *entrepot* and distributing center for anthracite coal, second to none in the country.

The statistics embraced in this review will be found interesting and valuable to shippers of and dealers in the product, enabling them, by a comparison of the business transacted during the past six years, clearly and accurately set forth, to form plans for future operations with a fair degree of certainty in their ultimate successful termination.

We flatter ourselves that these statistical records, being continually augmented by new and important information on matters pertaining to the traffic, have been conducive of great benefit to the Western trade particularly, an assertion corroborated by the well-regulated, nicely balanced and judiciously managed business of the past two or three years, in juxtaposition with the two years preceding them, which comprised an area of disturbances, inaugurated during the year 1879.

At the close of the year 1883, the anthracite coal market presented in almost every respect a most satisfactory appearance, calculated to inspire shippers and dealers with confidence in the prospect of a sound substantial trade.

Owing to a scarcity of rolling stock during the latter part of 1883, both receipts and shipments were greatly reduced, much to the annoyance of dealers as well as buyers, and as a consequence, compelling the transfer of a large amount of business into the year 1884. The beginning of this year found the mar-

ket with a comparatively small stock on hand, especially of the sizes for which the demand was most urgent, the total tonnage of all anthracite coal held here on the 1st of January, 1884, amounting to *two hundred and sixty-five thousand, six hundred and forty-five tons*, all told. From the nature and condition of the trade during the last three months of 1883, a pretty fair estimate could be made of the stocks throughout the country contiguous to and requiring to be supplied by this market.

The amounts were certainly of the smallest. Particular attention was called to this fact in the issue of the COAL TRADE REVIEW for 1883, subsequent events fully confirming the assertions there made. Thus the year 1884 opened with bright auspices for the trade, finding the market in a most flattering condition, and amply justifying calculations for a larger amount of business than had been transacted during any former season, expectations which, we are happy to say, have in the main been realized. Notwithstanding the additional receipts during January, February, March and April, amounting in the aggregate to *three hundred and thirty-four thousand, one hundred and sixty-five tons*, it was found that all the stock on hand on the 1st of May, footed up a total of only *sixty thousand tons*; the lowest figure attained in several years, with a fine, open market offering every encouragement.

April 29, the first circular of the season was officially announced, establishing the following prices f. o. b. in Buffalo:

By vessel.	Gross.	Net tons.
Grate.....	\$4 95	\$4 42
Egg.....	5 05	4 51
Stove.....	5 30	4 73
Nut.....	5 30	4 73
By cars, f. o. b. in Buffalo:		
Grate.....	4 65	4 15
Egg.....	4 75	4 24
Stove.....	5 00	4 46
Nut.....	5 00	4 46
By cars, f. o. b. in Chicago:		
Grate.....	6 65	5 93
Egg.....	6 75	6 02
Stove.....	7 00	6 25
Nut.....	7 00	6 25

These prices, with some slight modifications now and then made, remained in force until August 1, when, nominally, at least, an advance of six and fifteen cents respectively was

ordered. It has been questioned, and perhaps with good reason, whether the prices adopted on the 29th of April, and ratified on the 29th of May following, were judicious, and fitly adapted to rule at the beginning of the season proper, and at the opening of navigation. A lower schedule might have been the means of causing an earlier, more spontaneous, and heavier demand, by meeting, half-way, as it were, the anticipations of buyers. Again, by starting out with lower prices, subject to such advance as unforeseen circumstances or subsequent events would have justified, more confidence and strength might have been imparted to the trade at large, while, perhaps, a large share of that hand-to-mouth system of buying, so much in vogue during the season, and so predominant at the present time, could have been abrogated, supplanted by a greater degree of positiveness, and likely productive of increasing to some extent the tonnage. These are questions which it will be well for shippers to consider in their future deliberations, when the plans for the ensuing season's campaign are sketched out. However, as the stocks on hand throughout this market at the beginning of the year 1885 are by no means large, footing up on the 1st of January a total of *three hundred and twenty-four thousand two hundred and eighty-nine tons*, held here in docks and yards, the coming season must necessarily profit by a demand, which a possible previous stocking up throughout the country would have neutralized. Lake freights opened stiff at 75 cents, rising during May and June to 80 and 85 cents, though the average for the season at which cargoes were contracted for is 75 cents, not considering some exceptional cases. The first vessel passing the straits for this port was the *W. Edwards*, with a cargo of *one thousand two hundred and forty-eight tons*, consigned to Messrs. Meeker, Hedstrom & Co. Thenceforward, and until the steamer *Jewett*, with a cargo of *one thousand five hundred tons*, consigned to W. S. Bogle, agent for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, brought up the van in the season of navigation, *six hundred and fifty-nine vessels* of all descriptions arrived at this port, bringing a total of *eight hundred and twenty-five thousand two hundred and seventy-six tons* of anthracite coal, against *seven hundred and thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and twenty-three tons* during the season of 1883,

being an increase of *eighty-six thousand five hundred and fifty-three tons*, equal to *11.72 per cent*.

Transactions during the months of May and June were light, owing to an evident doubt on the part of buyers in the strength of the circular. However, when it was found that the position taken by the shippers seemed apparently invulnerable, and rumors began to circulate of a possible advance at an early date, the market quickly assumed its wonted appearance of genuine activity. Most of the larger orders were placed at this time, and once the movement inaugurated, the market thereafter may be said to have presented an even front, unruffled by any extraordinary pressure, quietly active, noted for exceptional firmness, and creating the impression of being held well in hand.

As it is not the purpose of this review to compare the anthracite coal market to an elysium, which it certainly never will be, it is proper to glance at the drawback and disturbing elements which the trade had to encounter during the past season.

It is unnecessary to refer to the rumors, now and then set afloat by design or thoughtlessness, of the practice resorted to by dealers to effect sales, by making concessions to a greater or less extent from the ruling prices. While many such rumors have no foundation in truth, it cannot be denied that some are based on fact, and instances of this character were not foreign to last year's business. That the parties adopting such plans cannot profit thereby in the end, though deriving, perhaps, temporary advantages, is evident, nor do they confer any actual benefit upon the buyer. A more thorough, broad and uniform understanding among shippers, dealers and buyers, will not only benefit all parties, but tend to still more elevate the traffic and forward its extension and further development. Nevertheless, it is safe to admit that the expression, "cutting prices," will be in vogue in the coal markets as long as a ton of that product is mined and sold.

Quite a breeze arose on the horizon of this market last June, when rumors flew around thick and fast concerning the possible action of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co. The probability was freely discussed, that this company would throw their entire surplus on the market, regardless of prices, an event that would certainly have resulted in the repetition of a

like state of affairs as existed in 1879. Fortunately, however, the whole matter remained confined to the empty rumor, and when the announcement was made that this company had made application for a receiver, all fears were at once allayed, and the market forthwith drifted into its usual channels.

Of more importance, because of its more direct and less controllable influences, was the action of the Association of Western Shippers at their meeting in this city last August. Their efforts to create an artificial stimulus to the demand proved not only abortive, but, had the attempt been made somewhat earlier, might have been fraught with disastrous consequences. As it was, the only results obtained were a thorough shaking up of that confidence which it had required months to build up, while it frustrated the very aims sought to be accomplished by weakening the till then fair demand.

The policy for the government of the market during the year 1885 will have to demonstrate how soon and to what extent this lost vantage ground with the trade at large can be regained.

It is sometimes claimed that anthracite coal in the West and Northwest must be looked upon more in the light of a luxury than as a staple product, and the position it occupies seemingly justifies the appellation in many respects. Being almost exclusively used for domestic consumption, it does not, as in other parts of the country, enter into active competition with bituminous or semi-bituminous coals for the supremacy as a steam coal. In a country so rich in bituminous coals of almost every description and merit for consumption by manufactories, anthracite coal cannot attain a cosmopolitan range. However, admitting it to be in a measure a luxury, that luxury, by the comforts it brings in its train to the consumer, has developed into a necessity, the rapidly-growing dimensions of which will and must keep pace with the increase of the wealth and prosperity of the country restricted by none of the incidents common to the eastern trade. Hard times and a consequent desire to economize being such prominent features of the general business world during the greater part of the year 1884, could not fail to affect the anthracite coal market to some extent; nevertheless, taking the sum total of sales and the actual tonnage handled during the year, it must be admitted that, in spite of real or imaginary

shrinkages both as to bulk and prices, in almost all other branches of commerce the fact for the anthracite coal trade at this market presents a satisfactory appearance. Prices in the main did not suffer as much from incessant fluctuations as in some former years, both in the jobbing and retail trade, and the results to the exchequer are no doubt on a par with those of the season of 1883.

The total receipts of all anthracite coal from January 1 to December 31, 1884, aggregate *one million four hundred and fifty-three thousand and eighty-two tons*, while in 1883, for the same period, the aggregate was *one million two hundred and forty-five thousand four hundred and eleven tons*. This gives an increase in favor of 1884 of *two hundred and seven thousand six hundred and seventy-one tons*, or *16.68 per cent.*, whereas the increase in the receipts for 1883 over 1882 was *15.16 per cent.*, which gives for 1884 a clear gain of *1.52 per cent.* over and above the comparative increase in the tonnage. The amount of stock on hand January 1, 1884, was *two hundred and sixty-five thousand six hundred and forty-five tons*, while at the same time in 1883 it amounted to *two hundred and seventy-one thousand six hundred and thirty-eight tons*, thus showing the sales during the year 1883 to have been *one million two hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and four tons*, *39.46 per cent.* of which was shipped to the country and *60.54 per cent.* required for local consumption. *Two hundred and sixty-five thousand six hundred and forty-five tons*, as above stated, were carried over from 1883 into 1884, while on the 31st of December of that year *three hundred and twenty-four thousand two hundred and eighty-nine tons* remained in stock, making the actual sales during 1884 *one million three hundred and ninety-four thousand four hundred and thirty-eight tons*, of which the country trade required *42.01 per cent.* and home consumption disposed of *57.99 per cent.* Comparing the amounts shipped to the country trade and the tonnage required at home during 1884 with that of 1883 in accordance with their relative proportion to the total sales for each year, it will be seen that while a decrease must be recorded for home consumption of *2.55 per cent.*, the out shipments have gained that amount. Taking, however, simply the actual tonnage required respectively for home consumption or country trade during the

two years, regardless of their proportions represented as to the aggregate sales of each year, the results show a gain over 1883 of 18.61 per cent. in the shipments and 6.75 per cent. in local consumption. The steady progress of the anthracite coal trade will be best understood when it is seen that the average yearly gain far the past five years has been 12.79 per cent.

In connection with the foregoing, it is proper to state that in addition to the amounts forwarded from here *one hundred and ninety-five thousand one hundred and forty tons*, contracted for during the season at Chicago, were shipped direct without passing through here to points properly embraced within the territory controlled by this market. With due regard to the condition and requirements of the market, the stocks now on hand can be depleted by the opening of navigation and the beginning of the season proper, to a figure as low (if not lower), as that of last year, and a prosperous business must follow. A more manifest desire on the part of shippers and dealers to place themselves *en rapport* with each other, supplemented by largely increased facilities at the disposal of the former, cannot fail to establish confidence and stamina throughout the market.

NOTE.—The receipts of anthracite coal at Milwaukee during 1884 amounted to three hundred and ninety thousand four hundred and fifty-five tons, and at Racine, Wis., to twenty-eight thousand tons.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF ANTHRACITE COAL FOR 1882 AND 1883.

	1883.			1882.			INCREASE.		DECREASE.		
	Tons by Lake.	Tons by Rail.	Tons Total.	Tons by Lake.	Tons by Rail.	Tons Total.	Tons.		Tons.		
January.....	.....	28,197	28,197	.....	58,313	58,313	.....	.....	.....	30,116	.....
February.....	.....	30,112	30,112	.....	23,589	23,589	.....	6,523	.....	.....	.....
March.....	.....	21,329	21,329	.....	15,268	15,268	.....	6,061	.....	.....	.....
April.....	.....	14,946	14,946	.....	9,201	36,195	.....	.....	.....	21,249	.....
May.....	107,753	19,993	127,746	66,293	14,533	80,826	.....	46,920	.....	.....	.....
June.....	152,465	23,061	175,526	75,509	30,074	105,583	.....	69,943	.....	.....	.....
July.....	73,117	45,480	118,597	95,093	60,153	155,246	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
August.....	85,253	52,984	138,237	126,911	58,327	185,238	.....	.....	.....	36,649	.....
September.....	102,955	53,428	156,383	84,116	55,394	139,510	.....	16,873	.....	47,001	.....
October.....	110,668	51,572	162,240	78,131	57,039	135,170	.....	27,070	.....	.....	.....
November.....	81,052	89,647	170,699	78,888	33,143	112,031	.....	58,668	.....	.....	.....
December.....	25,460	75,939	101,399	1,850	32,602	34,452	.....	66,947	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	738,723	506,688	1,245,411	633,785	447,636	1,081,421	.....	299,005	.....	135,015	.....

Net increase for 1883, one hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and ninety tons, or 15.16 per cent.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF ANTHRACITE COAL FOR 1883 AND 1884.

	1884.			1883.			INCREASE.	DECREASE.
	Tons by Lake.	Tons by Rail.	Tons Total.	Tons by Lake.	Tons by Rail.	Tons Total.	Tons.	Tons.
January.....		36,866	36,866		28,197	28,197	8,669	
February.....		39,340	39,340		30,112	30,112	9,228	
March.....		47,621	47,621		21,329	21,329	26,292	
April.....	1,248	21,093	22,341		14,946	14,946	7,395	
May.....	130,690	21,341	152,031	107,753	19,993	127,746	24,285	
June.....	120,244	26,016	146,260	152,465	23,061	175,526		29,266
July.....	119,577	38,014	157,591	73,117	45,480	118,597	38,994	
August.....	101,810	66,809	168,619	85,253	52,984	138,237	30,382	
September.....	136,458	69,115	205,573	102,955	53,428	156,383	49,190	
October.....	114,943	89,340	204,283	110,668	51,572	162,240	42,043	
November.....	88,066	89,271	177,337	81,052	89,647	170,699	6,638	
December.....	12,240	82,980	95,220	25,460	75,939	101,399		6,179
Total.....	825,276	627,806	1,453,082	738,723	506,688	1,245,411	207,671	

This shows a net increase in the receipts for 1884 over 1883 of 207,671 tons, equal to 16.68 per cent.

Adding to the receipts, both of the year 1883 and 1884, the aggregate amounts of stock in docks or yards at this market, carried over from 1872 to 1883, and from 1883 to 1884, respectively, at the same time taking into consideration the amount of stock remaining on hand December 31, 1884, the actual sales for each year are ascertained as illustrated in the following tables:

TABLES SHOWING THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED DURING 1883 AND 1884, GIVING RECEIPTS, SHIPMENTS AND LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

	Tons 1883.	Tons 1884.	Increase 1884.		Decrease 1884.	
			Tons.	Per Cent.	Tons.	Per Cent.
Amount of Stock in docks and yards January 1st.....	271,638	265,645	.....	.....	5,993	02.21
“ “ Vessel Coal received	738,723	825,276	86,553	11.72	.....	.....
“ “ Rail	506,688	627,806	121,118	23.90	.....	.....
Total.....	1,517,049	1,718,727	201,678	13.29	.....	.....
Amount of Stock remaining in docks or yards December 31.....	265,645	324,289	58,644	22.08	.....	.....
“ “ Coal shipped to the country.....	493,860	585,753	91,893	18.61	.....	.....
“ “ “ consumed at home.....	757,544	808,685	51,141	06.75	.....	.....
Total	1,517,049	1,718,727	201,678	13.29	.....	.....

It will be seen by the above, that the tonnage at the disposal of shippers and dealers was 201,678 tons or 13.29 per cent. larger in 1884 than in 1883, whereas the aggregate amount actually sold during 1884, as demonstrated below, shows an increase over the preceding year of 143,034 tons, equal to 11.43 per cent. The discrepancy between the latter figures and those first enumerated is accounted for by the excess in the amount of stock remaining on hand December 31, 1884, as against that of 1883, namely 58,644 tons.

SALES.

	Tons 1883.	Tons 1884.	Increase 1884.		Decrease 1884.	
			Tons.	Per Cent.	Tons.	Per Cent.
Amounts shipped to the country trade	493,860	585,753	91,893	18.61	.....	.....
“ “ consumed at home (Chicago and environs).....	757,544	808,685	51,141	06.75	.....	.....
Total.....	1,251,404	1,394,438	143,034	11.43	.....	.....

EASTERN BITUMINOUS COAL.

A retrospective glance at the Eastern Bituminous Coal Trade in this market for the year 1884, does not present many features calculated to elicit demonstrations of gratification or enthusiasm. With the exception of the higher grades of eastern soft coals, such as are used exclusively for domestic purposes, the trade in all other grades, on the whole, has been prolific of many incidents, bearing in their train influences of a more or less discouraging character. Severe and, in some respects, unreasonably bitter competition, carried sometimes beyond the boundaries of wisdom, or the simple rules governing supply and demand, had left quite a large supply of eastern bituminous coal on hand at the beginning of the year 1884. It seemed, however, that shippers were oblivious to this fact, for instead of restricting the supply, as might have been expected, thereby allowing for a disposal of the surplus accumulated here, every avenue for transportation was called into requisition to push coal forward and continue in the augmentation of the stock. The sequel proved the fallacy of this apparently experimental strife for supremacy and control. If shippers had been governed in their action by expectations of a heavy spring trade, such hopes proved unfortunately illusive, as the demand developed unmistakable signs of weakening, and hesitation on the part of buyers was most effectually encouraged by the long lines of cars filled with the product, which occupied the tracks of several of the railroads. The result was a decline in prices which culminated in efforts to solve the problem: who could make the greatest reduction. Pittsburgh coal, which on the first of January, 1884, stood at \$3.75, came down to \$3.40, while Ohio Central dropped from \$3.50 to \$3.20, a price at once met by Hocking Valley and Shawnee coals. Unfortunately the effect of this tumble in prices was not confined to these kinds of coal alone, but immediately resulted in drawing Erie, Briar Hill, Younghiogheny and all other Eastern Bituminous coals into the general vortex, compelling dealers in these products to make cor-

responding reductions. For a time it seemed as if the downward course of the market would be arrested, owing to various disagreements between operators and miners in Pennsylvania and Ohio, but as the difficulties were soon amicably adjusted, affairs proceeded as before, steadily accelerated by the evident decrease in the demand. All efforts made by parties who correctly foresaw the inevitable and highly injurious consequences which a prolongation of this system of bearing down values must eventually have on the whole market, to stem the tide, were unavailing, and it was not long before buyers had matters pretty much their own way. To follow henceforth the varying fluctuations in prices during the remainder of the year, would be an impossibility, as quotations were invariably only nominal, while divergences from them and actual prices were too numerous to admit of even obtaining a tangible average rate. During February, 1884, a new coal from Ohio was introduced into this market and met with seeming favor. It is called the Jackson Hill Coal, and is mined at Wellston, in Jackson county, Ohio. The same qualities are claimed for it as are claimed for the coals mined in the Hocking Valley. Since its introduction here more or less has been received, and a place has been given it in the classification of eastern bituminous coal receipts in this Review.

Owing to evident efforts on the part of some shippers of eastern bituminous coals, put forward during 1883 and 1884 to force this market beyond its boundary; efforts emanating either from a desire to contest the ground hitherto occupied by Illinois or Indiana coals, or resulting from an imperfect knowledge of the situation and the requirements of the territory, the market soon felt the pressure and responded readily enough, in a manner, however, contrary to the wishes of the manipulators. By destroying every semblance to stamina in prices, a majority of those buyers who are accustomed to place their yearly contracts at a certain time were induced to refrain from following the usual custom, preferring to adopt the system that began to become so prevalent—of buying in smaller amounts at short intervals, and then only after exhausting the catalogue of dealers in search for the lowest bidder. In this way a hand to mouth trade was established, which, up to the present time, predominates, and from which a change to a more

substantial basis, though by no means impossible, is fraught with great difficulties, requiring the assistance of forces as yet foreign to the eastern bituminous coal trade at this market, or, at any rate, not available.

In the month of June the great strike in the Hocking Valley and Shawnee districts was inaugurated, whereby the product from these districts was practically kept out of this market. The circumstances which precipitated that strike, and everything connected therewith, are so well known that any mention of them in this Review would be superfluous. Whether the sole question of wages was the principal and only reason wherein originated this protracted disturbance, or whether other elements combined in its inception, are questions for the future to answer; considering to what extent this market has been affected by this strike, it suffices to state that it is only within the past few weeks, when the receipts of Hocking coal have again assumed appreciable proportions.

During the year 1884 eight hundred and fifty thousand six hundred and fifty tons of eastern bituminous coal was received from the various sources represented at this market, being a slight increase over the receipts of 1883 of 1.21 per cent. These receipts represent 30.64 per cent. of all bituminous coal received at this market during 1884 and 17.95 per cent. of the aggregate tonnage of all coal brought here, against 29.80 per cent. and 18.59 per cent. respectively, for the year 1883, showing a relative decrease for 1884 in comparison with the preceding year of 00.84 per cent. of the total bituminous coal tonnage, and a gain of 00.64 per cent. of the aggregate of all coal. This shows the relative proportion in the gain or loss to the growth of the business during 1884.

Dividing the 30.64 per cent. by states, the result is:

Pennsylvania, 14.26 per cent., being a gain of 5.42 per cent. over 1883; Ohio, 15.69 per cent., a loss against 1883 of 5 per cent., and West Virginia, 00.69 per cent.

In the subjoined tables will be found the receipts of eastern bituminous coals by months for the years 1882-83-84, with comparisons, as also a classification of the monthly receipts for the year 1884.

NOTE.—Two hundred and forty-three thousand and thirty-six tons of eastern bituminous coals were received at the port of Milwaukee during 1884, the majority of which was Ohio coal.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF EASTERN BITUMINOUS COAL, NOT INCLUDING
COKE, FOR THE YEARS 1882 AND 1883.

	1883.			1882.			INCREASE.		DECREASE.		
	By Lake.	By Rail.	Total.	By Lake.	By Rail.	Total.	Tons.		Tons.		
January.....	.....	43,875	43,875	.....	24,869	24,869	19,006	.....	.....	.....	.....
February.....	.....	47,696	47,696	.....	23,849	23,849	23,847	.....	.....	.....	.....
March.....	.....	48,823	48,823	.....	13,221	13,221	35,602	.....	.....	.....	.....
April.....	.....	33,737	33,737	16,509	23,498	40,007	.....	.....	.....	6,270	.....
May.....	26,121	44,946	71,067	22,216	29,123	51,339	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
June.....	32,709	43,390	76,099	14,773	26,175	40,948	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
July.....	38,930	50,569	89,499	25,221	38,223	63,444	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
August.....	33,205	46,055	79,260	44,805	46,079	90,884	.....	.....	.....	11,624	.....
September.....	21,947	46,703	68,650	47,046	41,163	88,209	.....	.....	.....	19,559	.....
October.....	25,259	84,401	109,660	58,246	46,828	105,074	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
November.....	31,717	73,654	105,371	46,039	49,543	95,582	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
December.....	4,600	67,065	71,665	12,939	27,641	40,580	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	214,488	630,914	845,392	287,794	390,212	678,006	204,839	.....	.....	.....	37,453

An increase in the receipts of 1883 over 1882 of 167,336 tons, equal to 24.69 per cent.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF EASTERN BITUMINOUS COAL, NOT INCLUDING COKE, FOR THE YEARS 1883 AND 1884.

MONTH.	1884.			1883.			Increase.	Decrease.
	By Lake.	By Rail.	Total.	By Lake.	By Rail.	Total.		
January.....	.....	52,828	52,828*	.....	43,875	43,875	8,953	.....
February.....	.....	45,184	45,184	.....	47,696	47,696	.....	2,512
March.....	.....	57,698	57,698	.....	48,823	48,823	8,875	.....
April.....	.....	50,009	50,009	.....	33,737	33,737	16,272	.....
May.....	28,445	70,661	99,106	.....	44,946	71,067	28,059	.....
June.....	34,529	41,295	75,824	32,709	43,390	76,099	.....	275
July.....	46,378	30,008	76,386	38,930	50,569	89,499	.....	13,113
August.....	35,127	45,925	81,052	33,205	46,055	79,260	1,792	.....
September.....	33,926	55,907	89,833	21,947	46,703	68,650	21,183	.....
October.....	24,429	47,019	71,448	25,259	84,401	109,660	.....	38,212
November.....	37,904	48,993	86,897	31,717	73,654	105,371	.....	18,474
December.....	2,450	66,935	69,385	4,600	67,065	71,655	.....	2,270
Total.....	243,188	612,462	855,650	214,488	630,914	845,392	10,258	.....

An increase in the receipts of 1884 over 1883, of 10,258 tons, or 01.21 per cent.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF EASTERN BITUMINOUS COAL, FOR THE
YEAR 1884—CLASSIFIED.

MONTH.	Pitts- burgh.	Youghiog- heny.	Erie and Briar Hill.	Miscellan- eous Penn- sylvania and Canal Coals.	Hocking Valley.	Shawnee.	Ohio Central.	Cumber- land.	Jackson Hill.	Total.
January.....	10,678	1,425	1,927	1,414	9,585	10,887	15,093	1,819	.....	52,828
February.....	10,169	1,977	1,792	740	3,970	5,772	18,882	1,722	160	45,184
March.....	18,108	3,333	4,073	3,469	8,967	6,887	9,040	1,943	1,878	57,698
April.....	10,947	2,591	3,487	1,791	7,534	6,529	13,519	1,206	2,405	50,009
May.....	18,995	8,699	18,583	14,207	7,551	6,426	19,308	1,511	3,826	99,106
June.....	15,016	16,787	16,438	8,598	4,520	4,439	7,901	1,254	871	75,824
July.....	13,767	22,955	21,088	4,893	1,081	.....	10,263	1,391	953	76,386
August.....	12,504	22,782	11,339	7,212	3,475	.....	21,801	1,633	306	81,052
September.....	19,489	13,337	18,485	17,121	6,942	.....	12,642	1,802	15	89,833
October.....	11,750	13,028	15,619	8,048	8,694	.....	12,356	1,494	459	71,448
November.....	16,527	14,802	18,218	13,795	7,522	.....	13,863	1,869	301	86,897
December.....	22,905	3,799	7,134	11,120	11,383	.....	10,354	1,871	819	69,385
Total.....	180,855	125,515	138,178	92,408	81,224	40,940	165,022	19,515	11,993	855,650

Showing the percentage of each kind of Coal of the total Eastern Bituminous Coal Tonnage for 1884, to be as follows ;

Pittsburgh Coal	21.14 per cent.
Miscell. Pennsylvania and Canal Coals ..	10.80
Ohio Central Coal.....	19.29
Jackson Hill Coal.....	01.40
Cumberland Coal.....	02.28
Youghiogheny Coal.....	14.67 per cent.
Erie and Briar Hill Coals.....	16.15
Hocking Valley Coals.....	09.49
Shawnee Coals.....	04.78

COKE.

The trade in that product has shown greater advancement during the year 1884, than that of any fuel embraced in the aggregate tonnage of receipts at this market. Usually, and at least for three years prior to 1884, coke held the position of about 10.25 per cent. of the yearly receipts at this coal market. This relative position has been advanced to 11.54 per cent., an absolute growth of 1.29 per cent. To appreciate this fully it must be borne in mind that some of the largest establishments for the consumption of this fuel have been entirely closed during the year, others have had long suspensions, while some have not operated to their full capacity. Notwithstanding these numerous drawbacks, the increase in the amount received during 1884 over that received during 1883 is 19.23 per cent., a larger gain than is shown by either anthracite or bituminous coals. The assertion will not seem quixotic, that the consumption of coke at this market and the country tributary to it, during the past year, would have assumed astonishing proportions in comparison with former years, but for the losses to the demand, sustained on account of causes above referred to. Connellsville coke, of course, enjoys the supremacy in the market, though a good deal of Pittsburgh coke is also disposed of. During the latter part of 1883, and the early part of 1884, quite a ready sale was found for a coke from West Virginia at \$4.80 per ton, but high freights and increased demand nearer home soon drew it out of this market. The coke trade during the past year has been remarkable for firmness in prices and a uniform predominance of the wise policy of governing the supply by the demand. During the months of January, February and March, prices ruled at \$5.10 for Connellsville and \$4.25 for Pittsburgh coke. In April the former advanced to \$5.25, a rate retained to the close of the year. A reduction from this price will no doubt give a fresh impetus to the trade by reawakening many hitherto dormant manufacturing industries into life and activity.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF
COKE FOR 1882 AND 1883.

	1883.	1882.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
January	65,211	31,412	33,799	.....
February	20,326	10,319	10,007	.....
March	14,531	12,583	1,948	.....
April	31,455	46,015	.....	14,560
May	41,826	42,173	.....	347
June	49,415	49,195	.....	280
July	41,364	41,293	71	.....
August	40,927	42,134	.....	1,207
September	33,310	46,475	.....	13,165
October	45,087	47,407	.....	2,320
November	43,843	50,815	.....	6,972
December	37,234	47,312	.....	10,078
Total	464,529	467,633	45,825	48,929

This gives a decrease in the receipts for 1883, as against those of 1882, of 3,104 tons, equal to 00.70 per cent.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF
COKE FOR 1883 AND 1884.

	1884.	1883.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
January	31,793	65,211	.....	33,418
February	45,660	20,326	25,334	.....
March	46,005	14,531	31,474	.....
April	49,422	31,455	18,027	.....
May	59,003	41,826	17,180	.....
June	51,513	49,415	2,098	.....
July	61,207	41,364	22,843	.....
August	54,384	40,927	13,457	.....
September	52,117	33,310	18,807	.....
October	39,033	45,087	.....	6,054
November	27,642	43,843	.....	16,201
December	33,018	37,234	.....	4,216
Total	553,860	464,529	149,220	59,889

Showing an excess in the receipts of Coke during 1884 over those of 1883 of 89,331 tons, or 19.23 per cent.

WESTERN BITUMINOUS COAL.

The effects of hard times during the year 1884 have been felt perhaps more directly by the trade in western bituminous coals, than by any other branch of this coal market. Being a pre-eminent factor as a steam coal, the entire, or, at least, partial, suspension of operations in manufacturing establishments and iron mills could not fail to produce a rapid decline in the demand for steam coals. These causes, though sufficient in themselves to check, for the time being, the vigorous growth which the western bituminous coal trade had displayed for several years previous, received further reinforcements from a steady falling off in the railroad traffic, thus largely decreasing the consumption of the product. It is not surprising, therefore, that the tonnage for 1884 received at this market does not exhibit the usually handsome increase over former seasons, as has been the case for several years past, and it can be only a subject for congratulation that the business has held its own, showing but a slight loss in the aggregate receipts as compared with 1883, during which year the amount received was unusually heavy.

The invasion of new territory and the development of additional sources for the consumption of these coals have in a measure counterbalanced the losses to an average yearly tonnage, otherwise sustained by causes above alluded to. That the trade must eventually profit by whatever strenuous efforts have been put forth during the year to make up the deficiency in business arising from one source, by seeking and opening new channels for operations, will not be questioned when manufactories and other industries both here and throughout the country contiguous to this market and dependent upon it for supplying the required fuel resume their wonted appearance of active life by setting all those wheels of the commercial and manufacturing world, so long at rest, again in motion. The foothold obtained in localities where the introduction of coal is of but

recent date and their thorough development, added to the regular consumption, unchecked by depression such as the trade encountered during the past year, will more than compensate for the failure of the business for the past year, to reach that annual average increase which it has been a pleasure heretofore to record with unfailing regularity. It will be noticed that while the receipts from some of the mining districts in Illinois and Indiana, whose coal is represented in this market, show a handsome gain in their tonnage, those from other points have fallen off. This is but one of the results of the unsettled condition of this market during almost the entire season. The usual contracts from several of the largest consumers were not forthcoming, limiting the demand principally to the smaller class of buyers, who were not loth to avail themselves of the tendency to cut prices by changing their patronage as occasion might offer special inducements, thus causing more or less alterations in the general complexion of the trade. Some districts found a more profitable market here, while to others the business elsewhere offered greater attractions. Notwithstanding the sluggish demand which prevailed during the greater part of the year, the production increased and prices, as a natural consequence, continued in their downward course, until it seems that a further decline must certainly involve loss, considering the cost of mining and freight.

As regards the latter, shippers of western bituminous coal have just cause for complaint, as most of the western railroads have done and are doing little or nothing to facilitate the thorough development of the traffic, especially when a time of general business stagnation would seem to demand a greater display of public spirit. Vast amounts of the cheap western coals could have been and would now be consumed throughout the West, were it not that the compound accumulations of freight charges make the product so expensive by the time it reaches its destination that people at these points in many instances prefer to burn corn instead, for which no market can be found, owing to the very same reason of high tariffs. During times of general prosperity a strict policy of "no concessions" may be perfectly justified, but whether the same rule is wise, or calculated to benefit either carrier, shipper or buyer in times of general business depression, is certainly deserving of doubt.

A general and healthy revival of business having become apparent during the closing few weeks of the year has caused a more bouyant feeling throughout the western bituminous coal market. The demand shows a decided improvement, and the rubicon of hard times has doubtless been passed, to be followed by the dawning of an era of prosperity upon all branches of business, one of the greatest of which is the western bituminous coal industry. It is safe to predict a largely-increased trade for the year 1885 over that of any former year, and perhaps at better and more remunerative prices than those, at least, which have ruled during 1884. The aggregate receipts from all sources for the year 1884 were one million nine hundred and thirty-seven thousand and sixty-eight tons, being 40.36 per cent. of the aggregate tonnage of all coal and coke received during that year, against 43.80 per cent in 1883, showing a decrease for 1884 of 3.44 per cent.

Taking the total tonnage of both eastern and western bituminous coals and coke for 1884, western coal represents 57.88 per cent. against 60.32 per cent. in 1883—a loss for 1884 of 2.44 per cent., and omitting coke from the calculations, the result is: western coal in 1884, 69.36 per cent.; for 1883, 70.20 per cent.—a decrease of 00.84 per cent.

The following tables give the monthly receipts by fields since the 1st of January, 1882, and up to December 31, 1884, as also comparative statements for 1883-82 and 1884-83:

MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF WESTERN BITUMINOUS COAL FROM THE VARIOUS FIELDS FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1883.

1882.	Wilmington.	Braceville.	Minonk.	Streator.	Grape Creek.	Fountain County.	Indiana Block.	Clinton.	Morris.	Mount Olive & Danville.	Central Illinois.	Miscellaneous.	1882. TOTAL.
January	55,630	10,489	6,530	10,869	14,448	12,748	28,885	5,674	4,114	1,876	.....	.....	144,203
February	42,748	13,121	5,906	6,068	11,286	9,083	20,044	1,930	4,529	827	.....	.....	115,542
March	42,416	20,354	3,680	6,493	9,234	7,313	22,234	1,137	4,517	1,203	.....	.....	118,640
April	31,792	18,852	3,472	6,814	8,192	6,275	20,308	2,736	2,104	2,031	.....	.....	102,546
May	33,792	23,229	4,870	6,475	5,651	10,220	29,586	2,467	1,249	1,339	.....	.....	118,878
June	40,109	22,616	2,914	5,050	5,670	7,488	28,119	2,297	966	1,582	.....	.....	116,811
July	43,880	19,843	3,397	4,406	5,702	8,893	42,044	1,929	491	1,997	.....	.....	132,572
August	59,172	21,632	3,631	3,753	7,240	9,874	40,335	2,984	768	1,119	.....	.....	150,508
September	77,209	19,945	5,977	5,795	7,487	13,481	40,944	3,855	474	2,367	.....	.....	177,504
October	81,908	21,027	4,681	5,595	8,312	19,608	36,639	3,680	451	1,667	.....	.....	183,568
November	74,970	23,806	5,076	6,504	7,951	15,982	39,872	2,748	1,201	1,330	.....	.....	179,440
December...	70,722	20,765	3,494	12,246	12,306	17,514	27,611	3,313	970	1,451	.....	.....	170,392
Total.	654,308	235,679	53,628	80,068	103,479	138,479	369,561	34,720	21,834	18,848	.....	.....	1,710,604
1883.													
January	71,433	21,987	3,605	18,671	12,296	13,912	27,802	4,262	837	1,469	.....	.....	176,344
February	61,461	16,676	3,494	22,900	10,192	13,287	26,918	4,228	520	1,962	.....	.....	161,638
March	73,333	29,343	2,920	25,332	15,345	10,522	8,269	7,173	1,336	2,472	.....	1,377	177,422
April	57,272	28,100	2,261	5,767	9,962	3,498	29,407	1,572	1,032	1,536	.....	802	142,209
May	41,710	30,786	2,026	6,144	13,093	3,981	29,864	3,890	1,714	1,530	.....	3,817	138,555
June	29,602	25,096	2,838	7,160	16,106	6,378	27,243	3,310	708	1,143	.....	1,925	121,509
July	42,352	23,353	5,183	7,777	12,247	6,698	25,153	2,340	1,175	890	.....	5,224	132,492
August	41,988	26,412	6,255	7,349	15,914	7,188	32,236	2,238	952	1,678	6,797	871	149,878
September	49,568	21,945	5,554	11,261	15,950	8,637	33,279	3,324	1,537	2,760	6,186	1,835	161,836
October	77,036	27,111	6,098	17,975	11,920	.....	36,492	2,489	1,466	5,836	7,920	3,733	199,086
November ..	80,855	24,634	5,416	21,397	21,904	3,244	41,037	7,189	2,416	5,235	7,775	3,269	224,371
December...	67,232	22,012	5,706	18,391	21,206	9,547	32,374	5,280	3,681	6,469	8,919	5,233	206,100
Total.....	693,962	297,455	51,356	170,124	176,235	86,892	350,074	48,295	18,394	32,970	37,597	28,086	1,991,440

MONTHLY RECEIPTS WESTERN BITUMINOUS COAL—Continued.

1884.	Williamston.	Braceville.	Minonk.	Streator.	Grape Creek.	Fountain County.	Indiana Block.	Clinton.	Morris.	Mount Olive and Danville.	Central Illinois.	Yeddo Block.	Miscellaneous.	Total, 1884.
January	63,336	25,110	4,143	14,429	20,684	10,064	18,173	1,571	1,370	4,171	9,526	.....	4,136	173,684
February	41,011	28,249	6,290	11,047	20,945	6,448	22,198	2,401	2,067	4,348	6,188	.....	3,599	154,791
March	52,187	27,113	6,759	8,821	22,791	7,390	4,326	4,516	2,634	7,123	8,199	.....	4,564	155,776
April	43,233	21,699	7,629	5,471	17,249	7,929	3,783	4,110	1,666	7,363	3,381	.....	3,087	129,623
May	42,310	32,208	2,230	6,143	21,985	7,984	3,029	2,748	1,005	3,538	1,162	1,346	3,261	130,970
June	32,300	25,812	2,206	8,719	20,321	6,117	31,737	693	841	3,621	1,278	1,271	2,008	137,544
July	40,393	19,991	2,091	7,927	15,137	5,647	32,321	298	994	3,348	1,307	1,361	1,197	132,512
August	43,879	25,765	1,789	7,285	13,614	6,351	37,858	1,363	863	5,954	1,066	583	1,069	147,269
September	51,027	26,843	2,234	7,650	14,897	7,053	34,774	1,724	1,204	10,173	1,418	2,225	1,384	163,605
October	49,523	32,646	2,658	9,956	19,164	10,365	38,084	3,861	611	11,091	1,250	1,963	2,085	183,890
November	73,924	32,593	2,438	8,642	21,845	8,554	33,327	3,894	812	19,479	1,121	2,909	2,291	213,769
December	60,667	36,626	3,108	11,845	21,362	12,121	35,764	5,581	2,322	19,310	1,410	1,710	1,869	213,635
Total.	594,290	337,655	43,585	107,898	229,994	96,597	300,035	32,661	15,790	99,519	34,326	13,348	31,370	1,467,068

WILMINGTON COAL DISTRICT.

The Wilmington Coal Field, comprising the mines at Braidwood, Coal City and, properly speaking, Braceville, Illinois, with a total of twelve shafts in operation, largely exceeds, in the yearly production of coal that of any other single coal district in the Western states.

The receipts of Wilmington coal at this market during the past six years show a total of more than one-half of the aggregate amount of western bituminous coals received, representing an average yearly percentage of 50.86 per cent. of that aggregate.

The mines in this field are owned and operated by the following corporations and companies:

The Wilmington Coal Association; A. L. Sweet, president; J. G. Halsey, manager. This association embraces the following companies:

The Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company; A. L. Sweet, secretary and general manager, operating three mines.

The Eureka Coal Company; A. B. Meeker, president; C. Wheeler, secretary, operating two mines.

The Wilmington Coal-mining and Manufacturing Company; H. G. Fordyce, general manager, operating one mine.

The Star Coal Mining Company; M. D. Buchanan, general manager, operating two mines.

This comprises the Wilmington Coal Association.

The other companies operating in this field are:

The Wilmington and Springfield Coal Company; Charles V. Hickox, president, operating one mine.

The Albright Wilmington Coal Company; J. J. Albright, Jr., president; H. Pratt, treasurer, J. O. Parker, secretary, operating two mines. One of these recently purchased from the Wilmington and Springfield Coal Company.

Messrs. W. B. Suffern & Bro., operating one mine.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, who, under the general superintendency of B. Wykeman, operate two shafts at Braceville. The receipts from this point are given in a separate table.

WILMINGTON FIELD.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF WILMINGTON COAL FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons, 1882.	Tons, 1883.	Tons, Increase.	Tons, Decrease.	Tons, 1883.	Tons, 1884.	Tons, Increase.	Tons, Decrease.
January.....	55,620	71,483	15,863	.....	71,483	63,336	.....	8,147
February.....	42,748	61,461	18,713	.....	61,461	41,011	.....	20,450
March.....	42,416	73,333	30,917	.....	73,333	52,187	.....	21,146
April.....	31,762	57,272	25,510	.....	57,272	43,283	.....	14,039
May.....	33,792	41,710	7,918	.....	41,710	42,310	600	.....
June.....	40,109	29,602	.....	10,507	29,602	32,900	3,298	.....
July.....	43,880	42,352	.....	1,528	42,352	40,293	.....	2,059
August.....	59,172	41,988	.....	17,184	41,988	43,879	1,891	.....
September.....	77,209	49,568	.....	27,641	49,568	51,027	1,459	.....
October.....	81,908	77,056	.....	4,852	77,056	49,523	.....	27,533
November.....	74,970	80,855	.....	5,885	80,855	73,924	.....	6,931
December.....	70,722	67,282	.....	3,440	67,282	60,667	.....	6,615
Total.....	654,308	693,962	39,654	.....	693,962	594,290	.....	99,672

RECEIPTS FROM BRACEVILLE (WILMINGTON FIELD) FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	10,489	21,987	11,498	.....	21,987	25,110	3,123	.....
February.....	13,121	16,676	3,555	.....	16,676	28,249	11,573	.....
March.....	20,354	23,343	8,989	.....	29,343	27,113	.....	2,230
April.....	18,852	28,100	9,248	.....	28,100	24,699	.....	3,401
May.....	23,229	30,786	7,557	.....	30,786	32,208	1,422	.....
June.....	22,616	25,096	2,480	.....	25,096	25,812	716	.....
July.....	19,843	23,353	3,510	.....	23,353	19,991	.....	3,362
August.....	21,632	26,412	4,780	.....	26,412	25,765	.....	647
September.....	19,945	21,945	2,000	.....	21,945	26,843	4,898	.....
October.....	21,027	27,111	6,084	.....	27,111	32,646	5,535	.....
November.....	23,806	24,634	828	.....	24,634	32,593	7,959	.....
December.....	20,765	22,012	1,247	.....	22,012	36,626	14,614	.....
Total.....	235,679	297,455	61,776	.....	297,455	337,655	40,200	.....

THE MINONK DISTRICT.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Differences for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	6,530	3,605	.....	2,925	3,605	4,143	538	.....
February.....	5,906	3,494	.....	2,412	3,494	6,290	2,796	.....
March.....	3,680	2,920	.....	760	2,920	6,769	3,849	.....
April.....	3,472	2,261	.....	1,211	2,261	7,629	5,368	.....
May.....	4,870	2,036	.....	2,844	2,036	2,230	204	.....
June.....	2,914	2,838	.....	76	2,838	2,206	.....	632
July.....	3,397	5,183	1,786	.....	5,183	2,091	.....	3,092
August.....	3,631	6,255	2,624	.....	6,255	1,789	.....	4,466
September.....	5,977	5,554	.....	423	5,554	2,234	.....	3,320
October.....	4,681	6,098	1,417	.....	6,098	2,658	.....	3,440
November.....	5,076	5,416	340	.....	5,416	2,438	.....	2,978
December.....	3,494	5,706	2,212	.....	5,706	3,108	.....	2,598
Total.....	53,628	51,356	.....	2,272	51,356	43,585	.....	7,771

This district contains but one shaft at present, owned and operated by the Chicago and Minonk Coal and Coke Co., Miner T. Ames, president, and Theodore S. Mize, Secretary. The shipments to the Chicago market from this source, during six years, represent an annual average of 3.09 per cent. of the western bituminous coal tonnage during that time.

THE STREATOR DISTRICT.

The Streator district is worked by the following companies, shipping to this market, and having in all eleven shafts in operation :
 The Chicago Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company; A. L. Sweet, secretary and general manager, three shafts.

The Coal Run Coal Company; Nelson Plumb, president; three shafts.

The Streator Coal Company; M. J. Luther, president; A. E. Tyler, secretary, one shaft.

The Prairie Creek Coal Company; ——— McMahon, president, one shaft.

The Star Coal Company; John Kangley, president, one shaft.

The River Bank Coal Company; ——— Campbell, president, one shaft.

Streator Coal in this market represents an average yearly percentage of the aggregate western bituminous coal receipts of 6.23 per cent. from January 1, 1879, to December 1, 1884.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS OF STREATOR COAL FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	10,869	18,671	7,802	.....	18,671	14,439	.....	4,242
February.....	6,068	22,900	16,832	.....	22,900	11,047	.....	11,853
March.....	6,493	25,332	18,839	.....	25,332	8,824	.....	16,508
April.....	6,814	5,767	.....	1,047	5,767	5,471	.....	296
May.....	6,475	6,144	.....	331	6,144	6,143	.....	1
June.....	5,050	7,160	2,110	.....	7,160	8,679	1,519	.....
July.....	4,406	7,777	3,371	.....	7,777	7,927	150	.....
August.....	3,753	7,349	3,596	.....	7,349	7,285	.....	64
September.....	5,795	11,261	5,466	.....	11,261	7,650	.....	3,611
October.....	5,595	17,975	12,380	.....	17,975	9,956	.....	8,019
November.....	6,504	21,397	14,893	.....	21,397	8,642	.....	12,755
December.....	12,246	18,391	6,145	.....	18,391	11,845	.....	6,546
Total.....	80,068	170,124	90,056	.....	170,124	107,898	.....	62,226

THE GRAPE CREEK DISTRICT.

But one company represents this field—The Grape Creek Coal and Coke Company—J. B. Brown, President, and F. H. McClure, General Manager.

As will be seen by a glance at the following tables, the business transacted by this company in the Chicago market shows a continuous and, in many respects, very rapid growth, demonstrating a positive gain in 1883 over 1882 of 70 per cent., and in 1884 over 1883 of 30½ per cent. To meet this steady increase, the company found it necessary to augment its production, and another shaft was accordingly opened during the early part of 1884, making thus five in operation.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE GRAPE CREEK FIELD FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	14,448	12,296	.....	2,152	12,296	20,684	8,388	.....
February.....	11,286	10,192	.....	1,094	10,192	20,945	10,753	.....
March.....	9,234	15,345	6,111	.....	15,345	22,791	7,446	.....
April.....	8,192	9,962	1,770	.....	9,962	17,249	7,287	.....
May.....	5,651	13,093	7,442	.....	13,093	21,985	8,892	.....
June.....	5,670	16,106	10,436	.....	16,106	20,321	4,215	.....
July.....	5,702	12,347	6,645	.....	12,347	15,137	2,790	.....
August.....	7,240	15,914	8,674	.....	15,914	13,614	.....	2,300
September.....	7,487	15,950	8,463	.....	15,950	14,897	.....	1,053
October.....	8,312	11,920	3,608	.....	11,920	19,164	7,224	.....
November.....	7,951	21,904	13,953	.....	21,904	21,845	.....	59
December.....	12,306	21,206	8,900	.....	21,206	21,362	156	.....
Total.....	103,479	176,235	72,756	.....	176,235	229,994	53,759	.....

The amount received from this district since the company began operations in 1880 place this coal fourth in the order of percentages, with reference to the total western bituminous coal tonnage handled here from 1880 to the end of 1884, the receipts from this source being 6.55 per cent of that total.

INDIANA BLOCK COAL DISTRICT.

Owing to a well-organized strike during the months of March, April and May, 1884, the receipts from this field suffered a severe curtailment, which even subsequent heavy shipments could not wholly counterbalance.

The amount of Indiana Block Coal brought here during six years shows it to rank second in percentages of the total amount of western coals received, with a yearly average of 17.17 per cent.

The following companies operating in this field are represented at the Chicago market:

The Brazil Block Coal Company; D. C. Jenne, president; controlling and operating in addition to their three shafts the three formerly operated by the Brazil and Chicago Coal Company, as also the Zellar and McLelland shaft, making seven in all.

The Drew and Wasson Coal and Mining Company, lessees of the former Watson Coal and Mining Company's property, operate two shafts.

The Jackson Coal and Mining Company operate three shafts.

T. H. Watson & Co., have recently began to work one shaft.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE INDIANA BLOCK COAL FIELD FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	21,835	27,802	5,967	.....	27,802	18,173	.....	9,629
February.....	20,044	26,918	6,874	.....	26,918	22,198	.....	4,720
March.....	22,234	8,269	.....	13,965	8,269	4,326	.....	3,943
April.....	20,308	29,407	9,099	.....	29,407	3,785	.....	25,622
May.....	29,586	29,864	278	.....	29,864	4,029	.....	25,835
June.....	28,119	27,243	.....	876	27,243	31,797	4,554	.....
July.....	42,034	25,153	.....	16,881	25,153	32,921	7,768	.....
August.....	40,335	32,236	.....	8,099	32,236	37,858	5,622	.....
September.....	40,944	33,279	.....	7,665	33,279	35,773	2,494	.....
October.....	36,639	36,492	.....	147	36,492	38,084	1,592	.....
November.....	39,872	41,037	1,165	.....	41,037	35,327	.....	5,710
December.....	27,611	32,374	4,763	.....	32,374	35,704	3,330	.....
Total.....	369,561	350,074	.....	19,487	350,074	300,035	.....	50,039

THE FOUNTAIN COUNTY COAL DISTRICT.

A number of changes in the proprietorship of mining property in this field have taken place during the year, and the actual number of shafts now in operation is four. Messrs. Woodruff and Trunkley Bros. in addition to their own mine are working the two mines formerly operated by W. G. Phelps, and their coal represents substantially the bulk of all Fountain County coal brought to this market. The former Ogden Bros. mine has been sold to Messrs. Brophy & Hodge, who are shipping some of their product to Chicago. It is probable that the Fountain County Coal Company will in the near future resume work at their mines, lately leased and operated by George Patterson.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE FOUNTAIN COUNTY FIELD FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	12,748	13,912	1,164	.....	13,912	10,064	.....	3,848
February.....	9,083	13,287	4,204	.....	13,287	6,448	.....	6,839
March.....	7,313	10,522	3,209	.....	10,522	7,390	.....	3,132
April.....	6,275	3,498	.....	2,777	3,498	7,920	4,422	.....
May.....	10,220	3,981	.....	6,239	3,981	7,984	4,003	.....
June.....	7,488	6,378	.....	1,110	6,378	6,117	.....	261
July.....	8,893	6,698	.....	2,195	6,698	5,647	.....	1,051
August.....	9,874	7,188	.....	2,686	7,188	6,351	.....	837
September.....	13,481	8,637	.....	4,844	8,637	7,053	.....	1,584
October.....	19,608	.....	.....	19,608	.....	10,968	10,968	.....
November.....	15,982	3,244	.....	12,738	3,244	8,534	5,290	.....
December.....	17,514	9,547	.....	7,967	9,547	12,131	2,574	.....
Total.....	138,479	86,892	.....	51,587	86,892	96,597	9,705	.....

Fountain County Coal receipts at the Chicago market during the past six years show its percentage of the total Western coal tonnage received here during that time to be 9.54 per cent.

THE MOUNT OLIVE, STAUNTON AND DANVILLE COAL DISTRICTS.

The Ellsworth Coal Company, Charles Ridgely, president; A. C. Daniel, General Manager; George T. Cutts, Secretary, and Edward Ridgely, Treasurer, are the owners and operators of extensive mining property located at the above mentioned points. The mines now in operation consist of ten shafts, being: Three at Mount Olive, Illinois; three at Staunton, Illinois, and four at Danville, Illinois. The product of these mines has heretofore been shipped almost entirely to St. Louis, or to points south and east of the mines, and it is only within the past year that this company established a permanent agency at Chicago, obviously with the intention of making propaganda for a part of the Northwestern trade, an object which, accepting the receipts here from these sources since that time as a criterion, seems to meet with manifest success. The amount of coal shipped by this company during 1884 represents 5.14 per cent of the total tonnage of the Western coal received during that year.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE MOUNT OLIVE, STAUNTON AND DANVILLE DISTRICTS FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1881, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1882.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1881.	Tons. 1882.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	.....	1,876	1,876	.....	1,876	1,469	.....	407	1,469	4,171	2,702	.....
February.....	.....	827	827	.....	827	1,962	1,135	.....	1,962	4,348	2,386	.....
March.....	.....	1,262	1,262	.....	1,262	2,472	1,210	.....	2,472	7,123	4,651	.....
April.....	.....	2,031	2,031	.....	2,031	1,536	.....	495	1,536	7,363	5,827	.....
May.....	.....	1,339	1,339	.....	1,339	1,530	191	.....	1,530	3,538	2,008	.....
June.....	.....	1,582	1,582	.....	1,582	1,143	.....	439	1,143	3,621	2,478	.....
July.....	.....	1,997	1,997	.....	1,997	890	.....	1,107	890	3,348	2,458	.....
August.....	.....	1,119	1,119	.....	1,119	1,678	559	.....	1,678	5,954	4,276	.....
September.....	.....	2,367	2,367	.....	2,367	2,760	393	.....	2,760	10,173	7,413	.....
October.....	.....	1,667	1,667	.....	1,667	5,826	4,159	.....	5,826	11,091	5,265	.....
November.....	795	1,330	535	.....	1,330	5,235	3,905	.....	5,235	19,479	14,244	.....
December.....	1,866	1,451	.....	415	1,451	6,469	5,018	.....	6,469	19,310	12,841	.....
Total.....	2,661	18,818	16,187	.....	18,848	32,970	14,122	.....	32,970	99,519	66,549	.....

THE CLINTON COAL DISTRICT.

This market receives coal from but two companies, mining in this field, being The Indiana Coal Association, H. M. Benjamin, Esq., President, and Chas. B. Walker, Manager. This company operates three mines, formerly known and worked by the Park County Coal Company, the Briar Hill Company, and F. A. Bowen. Messrs. Brown and Hyndshaw operate one mine.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE CLINTON FIELD FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	5,674	4,262	.....	1,412	4,262	1,542	.....	2,720
February.....	1,930	4,228	2,298	.....	4,228	2,401	.....	1,827
March.....	1,137	7,173	6,036	.....	7,173	4,516	.....	3,943
April.....	2,736	1,572	.....	1,164	1,572	4,140	2,568	.....
May.....	2,467	3,890	1,423	.....	3,890	2,748	.....	1,142
June.....	2,297	3,310	1,013	.....	3,310	693	.....	2,617
July.....	1,929	2,340	411	.....	2,340	298	.....	2,042
August.....	2,984	2,238	.....	746	2,238	1,303	.....	935
September.....	3,825	3,324	.....	501	3,324	1,724	.....	1,600
October.....	3,680	3,489	.....	191	3,489	3,861	372	.....
November.....	2,748	7,189	4,441	.....	7,189	3,854	.....	3,335
December.....	3,313	5,280	1,967	.....	5,280	5,581	301	.....
Total.....	34,720	48,295	13,575	.....	48,295	32,661	.....	15,634

The yearly percentage of the Clinton Field coal in this market is 2.01 per cent.

YEDDO BLOCK AND MISCELLANEOUS COALS.

The Yeddo Block Coal district is represented by the Union Coal Company, E. F. Lawrence, President; C. W. Hillard, Secretary and Treasurer, and J. R. Truman, General Manager, who at present operate one shaft near Yeddo, Indiana. This was opened as a trial shaft, when a good quality of Block Coal was found, whereupon the company have decided to increase their production, by sinking additional shafts, commencing during the coming season.

The receipts coming under the heading of Miscellaneous Coals comprise the coal arriving at this market from various sources in Illinois and Indiana not permanently represented here, and too numerous to classify, but necessary to consider in making up the accurate total of receipts.

MONTH.	Yeddo Block. 1884.	MONTH.	Illinois and Indiana Miscellaneous. 1884.	Miscellaneous Coal from Central Illinois.
January		January	4,136	6,526
February.....		February	3,599	6,188
March.....		March.....	4,504	8,199
April.....		April.....	3,087	3,381
May.....	1,346	May.....	4,261	1,182
June.....	1,271	June.....	2,008	1,278
July.....	1,361	July.....	1,197	1,307
August.....	533	August.....	1,009	1,066
September.....	2,225	September	1,384	1,418
October.....	1,993	October.....	2,085	1,250
November	2,909	November	2,291	1,121
December.....	1,710	December.....	1,809	1,410
Total.....	13,348	Total.....	31,370	34,326

MORRIS DISTRICT.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE MORRIS FIELD FROM JANUARY 1, 1882, TO DECEMBER 31, 1884.

MONTH.	Amount Received.		Difference for 1883.		Amount Received.		Difference for 1884.	
	Tons. 1882.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.	Tons. 1883.	Tons. 1884.	Tons. Increase.	Tons. Decrease.
January.....	4,114	857	.....	3,257	857	1,370	513	.....
February.....	4,529	520	.....	4,009	520	2,067	1,547	.....
March.....	4,517	1,336	.....	3,181	1,336	2,034	698	.....
April.....	2,104	2,082	.....	72	2,032	1,666	.....	366
May.....	1,249	1,714	465	.....	1,714	1,006	.....	708
June.....	966	708	.....	258	708	841	133	.....
July.....	491	1,175	684	.....	1,175	994	.....	181
August.....	768	952	184	.....	952	863	.....	89
September.....	474	1,537	1,063	.....	1,537	1,204	.....	333
October.....	451	1,466	1,015	.....	1,466	611	.....	855
November.....	1,201	2,416	1,215	.....	2,416	812	.....	1,604
December.....	970	3,681	2,711	.....	3,681	2,322	.....	1,359
Total.....	21,834	18,394	.....	3,440	18,394	15,790	.....	2,604

The receipts of coal from this district show a yearly average of percentages, with regard to the total Western Coal tonnage at this market, for six years of 1.31 per cent.

CHARLES RIDGELY,
President.

A. C. DANIEL,
Gen'l Manager.

GEO. T. CUTTS,
Secretary.

EDWARD RIDGELY,
Treasurer.

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